

original purchase, the community expanded through cooperative purchase by James's five sons, Sidney, Ellison, Eli, Fisher, and James James as well as Ervin James's son-in-law, Alonza Wright. James's five sons and son-in-law divided up the original tract of land into six twelve-acre plots for each of them to farm individually. Throughout the last decade of the nineteenth century and the first decade of the early twentieth, these six men made several cooperative purchases to increase the collective land holdings of Jamestown.

All six names appear on a deed recorded on March 26, 1891. In that year, the men bought several tracts of land from J.A. Grice and his wife Sarah E. Grice, the daughter of Eli McKissick. A subsequent deed recorded on May 29, 1891 documents the purchase of more land from Rebecca A. Gibson acting as trustee for the will of Nathan S. Gibson who owned land that bordered the James family holdings. The practice of cooperative purchase continued into the next generation of the James family. On June 29, 1915, Ephraim Ford, Eli James, James James, Robert James, Pat James, Elliott James, Mitchell James, James Wright and Betsy Williams collectively purchased land from J.R. Moody. The presence of several surnames other than James on the deed suggests that several other African American families had established themselves in the community by that time or had married into the James family. Jamestown had become a community.

Land divisions were made during the earlier years of the community to establish individual homes and tracts of land for separate families to work. Over the years, the property was passed down to the family heirs in each generation who collectively owned the land of their ancestors.

Social historian Edward Magdol asserts that owning land where family members could be reunited, live, and work together were primary concerns of freed African Americans. The community of Jamestown embodied each of these aspects. Without the dream of Ervin James, Jamestown and its powerful influence on African American history in the South would not have become a reality.

A marker was erected in Florence County, Jamestown on July 23, 2006 commemorating the extraordinary achievement of Ervin James. The marker thus reads:

FLORENCE COUNTY, 21-22, JAMESTOWN

This African American community, which flourished here for 70 years, has its origins in a 105-acre tract bought in 1870 by former slave Ervin James (1815-1872). James, determined to own his own farm instead of being dependent on sharecropping or tenant farming, bought the tract from Eli McKissick and Mary Poston. His five sons and a son-in-law later divided the tract into individual farms.

Between 1870 and 1940 Ervin James's descendants and other area families purchased additional land, creating a rural community of about 250 residents. Among its institu-

tions were the Jamestown Cemetery, dating from its earliest days; the Summerville Methodist Church (renamed Bowers Chapel), established about 1880; and the Summerville Elementary School, built in 1926.

Erected by Jamestown Reunion Committee, 2006

THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF LEGAL AFFAIRS REJECTED TAI- WAN'S BID FOR MEMBERSHIP

HON. BILL SALI

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. SALI. Madam Speaker, the United Nations Office of Legal Affairs (OLA) rejected Taiwan's bid for membership, according to a July 23 statement posted on the UN Chinese language website. The OLA said its decision was based on UN Resolution 2758, which recognized the UN's "one China" policy.

The UN Secretariat's rejection of Taiwan's application was reactive and hasty. It should allow Taiwan's application to be duly processed in accordance with the relevant rules of procedure of the United Nations. Also, I believe that the OLA's reference to UN Resolution 2758 as a basis for rejecting Taiwan's bid was anachronistic.

Resolution 2758 assumes that the People's Republic of China has legal jurisdiction over Taiwan. This is a dubious assertion. Taiwan has been independent of the PRC since 1949, and in recent years has had a robust political system characterized by competitive parties, active public participation and political liberty—values all Americans embrace.

It is unreasonable to claim that the PRC presumes to speak for a land and people over which it has no control. If the United Nations is founded on the principle of the equality of sovereign nations, it has no reason not to recognize Taiwan as an independent nation. On that basis it would seem that the UN must and should give Taiwan representation.

As noted, Taiwan in 2007 is free and democratic. In Taiwan, direct presidential elections have been held, political parties are proliferating and Taiwan has become one of the freest countries in Asia. As the UN claims to be the forum for resolving international differences, it should give fair and thorough consideration to Taiwan's application for membership in the United Nations and letting the 23 million people of Taiwan have due representation in that world body.

I presume that Taiwan will probably not succeed in joining the United Nations this year, but Taiwan's case is compelling. It is unfortunate that Taiwan has been treated so poorly by the United Nations. We ask the UN Secretariat to rescind its rejection of Taiwan's application and let the application go forward to the Security Council and the UN General Assembly for a vote.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MARGARET McMILLAN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 6, 2007

Mr. PORTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Margaret McMillan for greatly enriching the community of Southern Nevada with a lifetime of service as an exemplary leader and businesswoman.

Margaret is retiring after having served the telecommunications industry for over 47 years. Throughout her tremendous career she served as a pioneer for women in business. In 1972 she became the first woman to hold the position of Outside Plant Engineer, a position that is now staffed approximately 20% by women. During her time as Staff Engineer of Centel in Chicago she participated in the design of the company's first fiber optics system which was run from the Las Vegas central office to the MGM Hotel and Casino. In 1979 she was promoted to Outside Plant Engineer Manager in Las Vegas where she supervised the design and installation of all outside plant facilities in the Las Vegas area.

Along with being a pioneer for women in the telecommunications industry, Margaret's immense talents and work ethic were recognized and she rose through the ranks of several companies, eventually becoming the Director of Governmental Affairs in Las Vegas for the EMBARQ Company. In that position she has been instrumental in the development of many prominent pieces of legislation, including both the state and federal versions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Margaret's accomplishments as a professional are bolstered by her contributions to the Las Vegas community. She has served two terms as president of the Nevada Telecommunications Association, is a member of the Las Vegas Southwest Rotary Club, has served as area Governor of Toastmasters International and is a member of the Las Vegas Chamber of Commerce. Her work with these organizations has been extremely well recognized and she has been the recipient of many awards such as the Chamber of Commerce's Community Achievement Award. Margaret also received the Foundation for an Independent Tomorrow Citizen of Distinction Award in 2007. She is also listed in the book "Distinguished Women of Nevada."

Madam Speaker, I am proud to honor Margaret McMillan. Her aptitude and work ethic have made her a beloved fixture in the Las Vegas community and her reputation as a pioneer for professional women is well deserved. I wish her the utmost happiness in her retirement and thank her for a lifetime of service.